

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording information on a recording medium and for reproducing recorded information from the recording medium in accordance with a reproducing procedure designated by a user, comprising:

a detecting unit for detecting an unnecessary area on the recording medium where an unnecessary portion of the recorded information which is not to be reproduced according to the reproducing procedure; ~~and~~

an erasing unit for erasing the unnecessary area; and

a control unit for controlling the detecting unit and the erasing unit to operate when an instruction to eject the recording medium from the apparatus is inputted by the user.

2. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detecting unit comprises:

a first unit for detecting a necessary area where a necessary portion of the recorded information which is to be reproduced by the reproducing procedure is recorded for all of the reproducing procedure; and

a second unit for determining an area other than the necessary area detected by the first unit as the unnecessary area.

3. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control unit for controlling the detecting unit and the erasing unit to operate when the user finishes editing the reproducing procedure.

4. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control unit for controlling the detecting unit and the erasing unit to operate when an instruction to erase the unnecessary portion is inputted by the user.

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended): A computer readable information recording medium storing a control program readable by a computer apparatus and making the computer apparatus to function as an information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording information on a recording medium and for reproducing recorded information from the recording medium in accordance with a reproducing procedure designated by a user, comprising:

a detecting unit for detecting an unnecessary area on the recording medium where an unnecessary portion of the recorded information which is not to be reproduced according to the reproducing procedure is recorded;~~and~~

an erasing unit for erasing the unnecessary area; ~~and~~

wherein the information recording/reproducing apparatus further comprises, a control unit for controlling the detecting unit and the erasing unit to operate when an instruction to eject the recording medium from the apparatus is inputted by the user.

7. (previously presented): The recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the detecting unit comprises:

a first unit for detecting a necessary area where a necessary portion of the recorded information which is to be reproduced by the reproducing procedure is recorded, for all of the reproducing procedure; and

a second unit for determining the area other than the necessary area detected by the first unit as the unnecessary area.

8. (previously presented): The recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the information recording/reproducing apparatus further comprises, a control unit for controlling the detecting unit and the erasing unit to operate when the user finishes editing the reproducing procedure.

9. (previously presented): The recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the information recording/reproducing apparatus further comprises, a control unit for controlling the detecting unit and the erasing unit to operate when an instruction to erase the unnecessary portion is inputted by the user.

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): ~~The apparatus according to claim 2,~~An information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording information on a recording medium and for reproducing recorded information from the recording medium in accordance with a reproducing procedure designated by a user, comprising:

a detecting unit for detecting an unnecessary area on the recording medium where an unnecessary portion of the recorded information which is not to be reproduced according to the reproducing procedure; and

an erasing unit for erasing the unnecessary area;

wherein the detecting unit comprises:

a first unit for detecting a necessary area where a necessary portion of the recorded information which is to be reproduced by the reproducing procedure is recorded for all of the reproducing procedure; and

a second unit for determining an area other than the necessary area detected by the first unit as the unnecessary area;

wherein the erasing unit leaves the positions of the necessary area and a second non-contiguous necessary area on the recording medium unchanged.

12. (currently amended): ~~The recording medium according to claim 6;~~ A computer readable information recording medium storing a control program readable by a computer apparatus and making the computer apparatus to function as an information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording information on a recording medium and for reproducing recorded information from the recording medium in accordance with a reproducing procedure designated by a user, comprising:

a detecting unit for detecting an unnecessary area on the recording medium where an unnecessary portion of the recorded information which is not to be reproduced according to the reproducing procedure is recorded; and

an erasing unit for erasing the unnecessary area;

wherein the detecting unit comprises:

a first unit for detecting a necessary area where a necessary portion of the recorded information which is to be reproduced by the reproducing procedure is recorded, for all of the reproducing procedure; and

a second unit for determining the area other than the necessary area detected by the first unit as the unnecessary area;

wherein the erasing unit leaves positions of the necessary area and a second non-contiguous necessary area on the recording medium unchanged.

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).